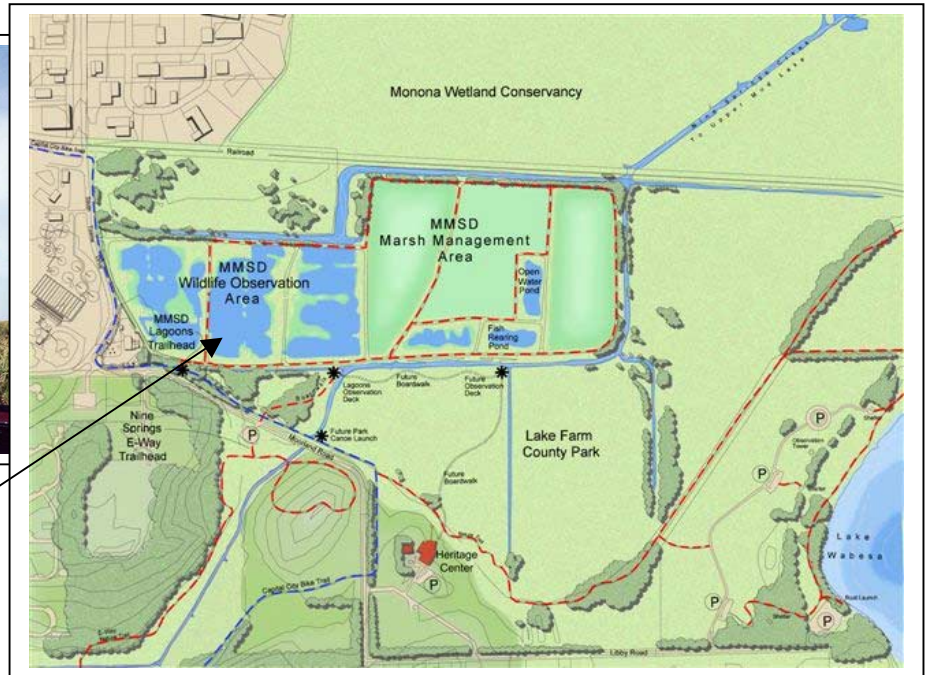


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The eastern zone contains a combination of open water and wetland that attracts marsh birds and water birds. The creek and drainage canals that border the eastern zone are attractive to wood ducks and other waterfowl.



This Wildlife Observation Area viewing platform, is accessible from the E-Way parking lot on Mooreland Road.



Partner Profile

Spring is a great time of year for bird watching! A great place in Capital Springs to observe birds is the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Wildlife Observation Area. Just a few years ago the observation area was a storage lagoon for biosolids that were produced at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. The biosolids have been removed and the area has been reconstructed for wildlife habitat and recreation. Bird watchers have always enjoyed this area and the MMSD hopes that the reconstruction will provide even better viewing for naturalists.

In the western part of the observation area, water levels are managed to provide excellent conditions for migratory shorebirds. During the spring and fall migratory seasons, water is pumped out of the ponds and returned to the wastewater treatment plant. This exposes the mudflats and thier abundant food supply. Water levels are raised after each migration period to control weed growth. Highly treated effluent produced at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant is used as the source water.

Over 200 different species fo birds have been documented at the site, including pheasants, hawks, owls, songbirds and shorebirds, some of which are rare in this part of the country. The area is also home to deer, fox, raccoon, muskrats, turtles, and other animals.

The public is invited to walk the trails and the boardwalk, but is asked not to bring pets into the area or to engage in activities that would disturb the habitat or wildlife. To learn more about MMSD call 608-222-1201 or visit www.madsewer.org. Tours of the treatment plant are available upon request and can be arranged online or by calling the above number.